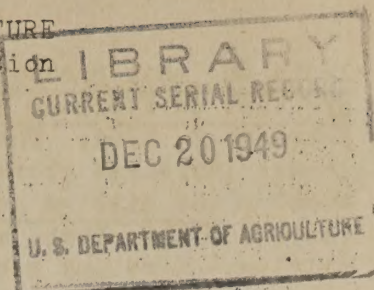


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois
February 18, 1948



FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

With commodity markets in sensational declines over a ten-day period starting around February 4, many business men began to wonder how far prices for wheat, corn, hogs, and other farm products could drop before Congressional mandates required the U. S. Department of Agriculture to carry out price support commitments made under the wartime food production program.

Here's a table listing the chief commodities under price pressure now, --- and the national average support level at which U.S.D.A. must carry out commitments: (Grains and oilseeds support by loan and purchase. Hogs, by purchase of pork and pork products from Federal Inspected Slaughterers):

<u>COMMODITY</u>	<u>NATIONAL AVERAGE SUPPORT LEVEL</u>
Soybeans	Green and yellow #2 -- \$2.04 per bu. Black, brown and mixed -- \$1.84 per bu.
Flaxseed	\$6.00 per bu., Minneapolis basis, #1 \$5.95 per bu., Minneapolis basis, #2
Wheat	Average loan and purchase rate \$1.83 per bu., at Farms. Variation by grade and location. (Chicago \$2.08; Kansas City \$2.02)
Corn	Average purchase and loan rate \$1.37 (Chicago \$1.40)
Oats	Average loan rate 63¢ per bu., on farm stored grading #3 or better. Variations by counties. Purchase price same as loan rate.
Barley	Basic loan or purchase rates for U.S. No. 1 at U. S. terminal markets, ranging from \$1.16 at Minneapolis; \$1.20 Chicago to \$1.31 at Philadelphia. Discounts for lower grades. Range by counties from 77¢ to \$1.19 per bu.
Hogs	Support level for period Oct. 1947 through March 1948 based on annual average \$16.15 per cwt., Chicago basis; for good and choice barrow and gilt butcher hogs. Actual rate varies by weeks and location. Current rate, Chicago basis, \$16.00. From March 1 thru May 6, \$16.25; balance of March \$16.50.

The support level for grains is based on 90 per cent of parity of the grain on the 15th of the month preceding the start of the crop year. This wheat parity on June 15, 1947, was \$2.03 X 90% -- \$1.83, the national average support level. Flaxseed is the only product now selling at the support level -- \$6.00. This support level was set well above parity to encourage large production in order to augment the limited supplies of linseed oil.

Hog support prices are calculated twice a year on the basis of parity prices March 15 and September 15 -- the months preceding the spring and fall pig crop seasons.

* * *

CCC will accept offers of the following: Seed corn--hybrid, rounds and small flats, 4 million pounds early maturing (85 to 100 days), in carlots of approximately 80,000 lbs., shipment not later than March 20. Make offers on Form Gro. 162 to Seed Marketing Division, Grain Branch, PMA., CCC., Washington, D.C.

CCC also interested in purchase of additional 250,000 cases of evaporated milk, export packed, with delivery preferred for at least 100,000 during March. Offers subject to terms of Announcement DA-55, should be submitted not later than Tuesday of each week to Dairy Branch, PMA, with acceptance Thursdays until purchase is completed.

* * *

Meat production under Federal inspection last week (ending Feb. 14) totalled 281 million pounds -- including 125 million lbs. of beef, 12.3 million lbs. veal, 130 million pork and 14 million lamb and mutton. Overall production was 9 per cent below the preceding week and 15 per cent under the same week in 1947.

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* * *

Meats and meat products in storage February 1, 1948, totalled 1,010,000,000 lbs. - greatest on February 1 since 1937, except for the heavy wartime stocks on February 1, 1944. They were 38 per cent greater than on February 1, 1947. Beef stocks increased over January 1, -- 6 million lbs. to 181 million; pork stocks went up 138 million pounds over January 1 to 665 million. Stocks of other meat, (e.g. sausage, lamb, mutton, veal and canned) increased 10 million to 164 million. Lard and rendered pork stocks at February 1 totalled 133 million pounds -- up 20 million from January 1.

* * *

USDA's last estimate of machinery on farms, and farmers' machinery needs, was made in the spring of 1945. Since then, the Department has had no direct voice in either the production or distribution of farm machinery. It's a known fact, however, that new farm machinery on farms has steadily increased since 1943, and, with more plant capacity and adequate supplies of raw materials, this increase should continue. The tractor "population" on farms, for instance, has grown from 1,500,000 in 1940 to an estimated 3 million in 1947. Grain combines on farms in 1947 were estimated at 240 per cent of the 1940 number, and corn pickers were twice as numerous. Tractor mowers harvested half the nation's hay crop in 1946 compared to 15 per cent in 1939, and milking machines on farms doubled from 1941 to 1946. A recent report on farm machinery supplies, by State PMA Committees, indicate that lack of machinery did not seriously affect the 1947 food production program.

* * *

Americans smoked 348 billion cigarettes in 1947 out of a total production of 370 billion, according to a recent U.S.D.A. report covering tobacco products. About 22 billion were exported. The 1947 consumption was 17 billion greater than 1946.

At the same time, some cigar smokers cut their daily ration, or "switched to .". Total consumption amounted to 5,631,000,000, a drop of 283 million from 1946.

Pipe smokers burned up 105 million pounds, about the same as 106 million pounds the year before. Consumption ("mastication") of chewing tobacco dropped about 11 million pounds below the 1946 figure -- to 96 million pounds. Snuff consumption was about 39 to 40 million pounds -- about the same as the preceding year.

Cigarettes now account for 75 per cent of all tobacco used in the U.S.

* * *

Merchantable potato stocks on hand February 1 totalled 90 million bushels, according to estimates by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is 30 million less than a year earlier. Stocks held in Midwest surplus states on February 1 were, in thousand bushels: Michigan 4,300; Wisconsin 1,950; Minnesota 5,050; North Dakota 7,470; South Dakota 460; Nebraska 1,910. Main stocks were estimated at 35 million, Idaho over 8 million, and Colorado 6 million.

* * *

A market news office, issuing daily reports of the St. Louis Missouri poultry and egg trade, was officially opened in that city by U.S.D.A.'s Dairy and Poultry Market News Service, February 16. J. V. Moran, Marketing Specialist, heads the office. First coverage will include only the wholesale egg and live poultry trade, and a general summary of the supply and demand situation, and other factors affecting the St. Louis market. Additional services covering dairy products will be added later.

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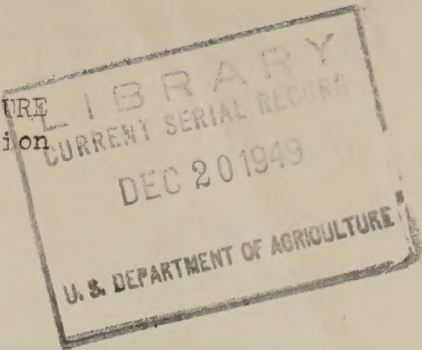
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois
March 16, 1948



FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

Here is the current U.S. poultry and egg production and consumption picture in an "egg shell" --

	1935-39 Average	1947 Preliminary	1948 Estimated	1948 % Increase (1935-39=100)
U. S. Production				
Eggs (farm plus non-farm) (Mil. doz.)	3,335	5,085	4,900	147
Chickens, slaughter (farm, non-farm, & Com'r'cl. broilers) (mil. lbs., dr. wt.)	2,327	3,445	3,300	142
Turkeys (mil. lbs., dr.wt.)	350	545	480	137
Per Capita Production				
Eggs (number)	308	426	405	
Chickens (pounds)	17.9	24.1	22.7	
Turkeys (pounds)	2.7	3.8	3.3	
Civilian Per Capita Consumption				
Eggs (number)	298	380	380	128
Chicken (pounds)	17.9	23.3	22.8	127
Turkeys (pounds)	2.6	4.1	3.4	131
Production Facts				
All hens & pullets on farms Jan. 1 (millions)	364.4	435.7	427.9	117
Rate of lay (yearly average)	130	155	158	
Breeder turkey hens on farms Jan. 1 (thousands)	3,539 (1937-39)	4,222	2,849	81

To aid the foreign relief program and to re-establish the normal agricultural economics of war torn nations, U.S.D.A. has purchased 60,956,551 lbs. of field seeds; and 13,399,925 lbs. of vegetable seeds for shipment to Europe and Asiatic areas for 1948 crop production. A large proportion has been delivered. These seed supplies should greatly relieve the demand for American harvested products.

Although the packinghouse workers walked out at a time when more than a billion pounds of meat were in cold storage and cooler warehouses, the initial market reaction was immediate price advances at the wholesale level. By morning of the first day of strike, steer and heifer beef at Chicago was up \$2 to \$3, cow beef had advanced \$1.00, and lamb was \$1 to \$3.00 higher.

Curiously enough, pork products, which make up around 60 per cent of the 1,179,610,000 pounds of meat in cold storage, had advanced the most. Pork loins were selling \$3 to \$7 higher, and Boston butts had gained \$4 to \$6.

Pork production the week before the strike was called was 35 per cent larger than in the same week a year ago, while total meat production was 10 per cent higher.

Dairy Branch, PMA plans to purchase for CCC about 53,000 cases of sweetened condensed milk, export packed as soon as possible, under FA-56. Offers must be received by Dairy Branch, Washington, not later than Monday, March 22, for acceptance in whole or part by Wednesday, March 24. Offers will be considered on a weekly basis until purchases are completed.

Cash receipts from farm marketings during the first quarter of 1948 (Jan-March) are expected by B.A.E. to be 6.4 billion dollars - 6 per cent more than in the same period in 1947. Cash receipts in January were 12 per cent above 1947, but in February, due to price declines on some commodities, were only 7 per cent above Feb. 1947. March cash receipts are expected to be about 2 billion dollars, about the same as last year.

Final 1948 production goals for most major crops and livestock were announced March 15 by U.S.D.A. Total acreage - 354 million - exceeding 1947 actual acreages by 7,400,000 acres. The goals call for increases in acreages of corn (5%), oats (3%), barley (5%), sorghums (excluding syrup (29%)), rye (22%) flaxseed (4%), dry edible beans (18%), certain winter crop, legumes and hay seeds (32 to 51%, milk (1%), stock sheep and lambs (3%).

The final wheat goal is about the same as planted last year - as are the goals for potatoes, sweet potatoes, sugar beets and sugar cane. (Livestock and dairy goals were set as high as expected feed supplies make feasible). Reduced goals include (1947=100): eggs (91%), tobacco (90%), soybeans (95), dry edible peas (94), chickens (93), turkeys (88), sows to farrow (92), cattle and calves slaughter (89), cattle and calves on farms Dec. 31 (95).

C.C.C. bought 454,230,000 pounds of flour, (10,220,000 bu. wheat equivalent) last week on a competitive basis. Starting Saturday, March 13, the agency is prepared to buy 1 million bushels of wheat daily for quick delivery, and some additional quantities for May or later delivery - if offers are acceptable. Purchases will be made by field offices on basis of shipping needs and acceptances will be allotted on a daily basis among firms offering grain to field offices.

Merchantable stocks of potatoes in the hands of growers and dealers on March 1 totalled 60,920,000 bushels compared to 75,230,000 on March 1, 1947, B.A.E. reports. (The supply a year ago gave U.S.D.A. a real price support headache) March 1 stocks in midwest producing states - 1948 and 1947 respectively are in thousands of bushels: Michigan 3,300 and 5,400; Wisconsin 1,500 and 1,550; Minnesota 3,800 and 4,400; N.Dakota 6,000 and 5,400; S.Dakota 250 and 480; Nebraska 1,200 and 1,860.

Milk production during February is estimated by B.A.E. at 8,219,000,000 pounds - 6% below a year ago, but 1% above the 1937-46 ten year average. Egg production during the month was 4,723,000,000 eggs - 2% below Feb. 1947 but 20% above the 1937-46 average.

Meat sold at retail in the U.S. during 1947 averaged 53.8 cents per pound compared with a 1939 average of 23.5 cents. Of this cost in 1947 the farmer received 38.3 cents, and marketing costs were 15.5 cents. In 1939 the farmer's share was 12 cents and the marketing charges took 11.5 cents. No breakdown of the 1947 marketing cost is available. In 1939 the retail cost including these margins: retailer - 5.6¢, wholesaler 1.4¢, packer 3.5¢, livestock marketing 1¢ and return to the farmer 12¢ = 23.5¢, B.A.E. reports.

The number of livestock slaughtering plants operating under federal inspection has increased from 298 in 1939 to 438 in November 1947. From Jan. thru Nov. last year, 72% of all commercial slaughter of cattle was carried out under federal inspection - 61% of calves - 91.5% of sheep and lambs, and 79.2% of all hogs. Federally inspected slaughter insures consumers of good wholesome meat processed under rigid sanitary regulations.

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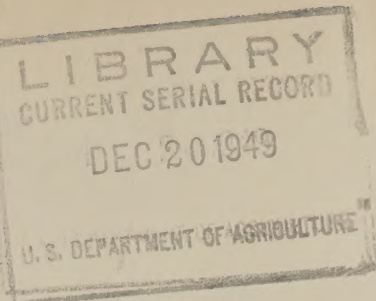
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois

April 6, 1948



FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

Food and feed conservation is still a "job of major importance", Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton P. Anderson, stated in a recent radio address. "It is true that crop predictions are better than at this time last year" the Secretary stated, "but until we are sure of the harvest we will have to rely on conservation to ease serious shortages." Secretary Anderson pointed out that even under the best possible conditions the world will continue to be short of food in the year ahead and, in many needy countries, the people will continue to rely on imported grain, of which the U.S. will be expected to supply the major portion.

Grain export quotas for May 1948, announced April 2, total 838,000 long tons (31,333,000 bu.); included are 30,613,000 bu. wheat and flour (in wheat equivalent) and 720,000 bu. grain sorghums. April quotas were 864,500 long tons (32,397,000 bu.).

All wheat, excepting 20,000 long tons for Mexico and 2,700 long tons for "miscellaneous" export, will be supplied by Production and Marketing Administration from CCC purchases. P.M.A. will also supply the flour allocated to Austria, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Korea and the US-UK Zone of Germany, (216,000 long tons) and 9,000 long tons of grain sorghums for the US-UK Zone.

On the basis of reports received by the Production and Marketing Administration, the following foods are expected to be in plentiful supply throughout the greater part of the U.S. during May: citrus fruits, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, lettuce, Irish potatoes, canned citrus juices and grapefruit segments, canned tomato products (juice, catsup, paste and puree), canned peas, pumpkins and sweet potatoes, dried fruits (prunes, raisins, peaches and figs), tree nuts, fruit spreads, honey, peanut butter, fresh and frozen fish, chickens and eggs. It doesn't look as if the American table will lack a variety of food in the foreseeable future on the basis of these reports.

With the strike continuing in many packing plants, (140), for the third week, meat production under federal inspection during the past week totaled only 164 million pounds. This was 8 percent below production in the preceding week and 40 percent under production in the same week in 1947. Cattle slaughter was down 18 percent; calf, unchanged; hog, up 1 percent, and sheep and lamb down 7 percent from the week before. In spite of reduced production by the major packers due to the strike, wholesale and retail meat prices have tended downward. This trend was explained as resulting from consumer resistance to high prices. Overall meat production, both inspected and non-inspected, is probably about 60 percent of normal, but consumers have not demanded meat in the quantities in which they were expected to when the strike got under way.

All 1947 crop loan cotton, including American Egyptian, still under loan on August 1, 1948, will be pooled on that date by CCC for producers' accounts. The cotton loans mature June 30, 1948. On March 26, loans were outstanding on 169,196 bales of 1947 crop cotton from the 268,883 bales placed under loan to that date. Producers may either sell their "equity" in loan cotton or redeem the cotton from loan and sell on the open market. The Department urges producers to market the loan cotton before it is placed in pools. Current market prices should enable farmers to dispose of this cotton at prices netting a substantial profit above loan charges.

CCC has withdrawn all dry bean purchase announcements, effective March 31, under the new procurement program recommended by the Cabinet Committee on World Food Programs. Under these programs, CCC acquired a total of 158,407,990 pounds dry beans for foreign aid programs.

Starting April 1, U.S.D.A. will discontinue buying certain commodities for the Foreign Relief program, and these commodities will be procured by the Dept. of the Army. The change is in line with the recommendation of the Procurement Planning Subcommittee of the Cabinet Committee on World Food Programs, to eliminate duplication and competitive buying by several governmental agencies. The commodities are: dry peas and beans, whale oil, copra, fish, processed cereals, soy beans and soya flour, lard and lard substitutes. The Army will also be responsible for procurement of bread grains and flour, and coarse grains in occupied and offshore areas.

Other major commodity groups in the Foreign Relief supply programs, and all commodities procured under price support operations, will be bought entirely by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The change of procurement responsibility will continue for an indefinite period subject to future revision which might be necessitated by changed conditions.

* * * *

U.S.D.A. announced, March 30, that the drop in fluid milk prices in Columbus, Dayton-Springfield, Cincinnati, Cleveland and the Tri-State milk markets will be limited to the drop in basic formula prices. Suspension of the provisions and pricing formulas for each market were based on declining milk production in these markets and increased competition for milk from surrounding markets. The Columbus differential for class 1 (fluid milk) for April will be \$1.00; Dayton-Springfield, \$1.05; Cincinnati, \$1.35; Cleveland, \$1.15; Tri-State, \$1.35.

* * * *

Frozen Egg sales to private exporters by U.S.D.A. will end April 13 (last offer date). The Department still holds (April 5) about 52 million pounds of the 61 million bought last year for price support purposes. Of the total, 2,773,000 pounds sold for domestic use and 6,725,000 pounds to private exporters (4,365,600 pounds sold March 31). Frozen egg-stocks will be available to export buyers through April 13 (last offer date).

* * * *

CCC will accept offers of an additional 100,000 cases of export packed evaporated milk for delivery as soon as possible. About 36,900 cases remain to be purchased from previous offers. Offer date Tuesdays, for acceptance in whole or part by Thursday, until the purchase is complete. Purchases to date under this program, 1,003,000 cases.

* * * *

CCC continues rice purchases for foreign aid. During the week ended April 2, the Agency bought 6,573,400 pounds of Southern and California pearl rice. Total acquisition of rice since October 14, 1947 is 243,640,900 pounds, all for export. Civilian supplies remain adequate.

* * * *

Commercial meat production in the U.S. during 1947 totaled 21.2 billion pounds, according to a recent estimate by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This was 3 percent above 1946. Beef and veal productions were each 12 percent larger, while production of pork was 5 percent less, and lamb and mutton 18 percent less. The estimates include beef, veal, lamb and mutton, and pork slaughter in Federally inspected and other wholesale and retail plants. Farm slaughter is not included. About 77.8 percent of all commercially slaughtered livestock in 1947 was processed under Federal inspection. 9410(2)

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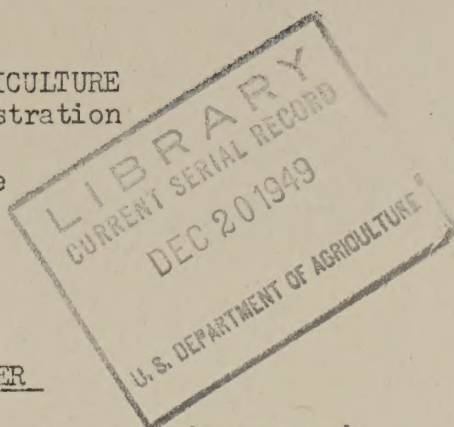
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois

April 13, 1948



FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

Distillers used slightly over 6 million bushels of grains in February and increased this to 7,700,000 bushels in March, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson reported April 13. During January, last month of government allocations, distillers used only 1,700,000 bushels. Stocks of whiskey are now equal to a 6 years' supply. A large percentage of the grain used for whiskey manufacture is corn - now in relatively short supply. During the period that grain used by this industry was under allocation, the estimated savings were 22 million bushels, but the unlimited use during February and March has already permitted distillers to use 8,700,000 bushels more than they would have used if the legislation requested by the President had been in force. This, Secretary Anderson pointed out, is nearly half the possible savings for 9 months.

* * * *

Meat production under Federal inspection in the U.S. during the first three months of 1948 was about 10 percent below a year earlier. Meat output is expected to decline more seasonally this spring and summer, and meat production in each quarter of 1938 will probably be smaller than a year earlier. Inspected production last week totaled 228 million pounds - 14 per cent up from the week before, but 17 per cent below the same week in 1947.

* * * *

Cash receipts from farm marketings during the first four months of 1948 will be about 8.3 billion dollars - 3 per cent above the same period in 1947. Receipts from livestock sales and products are expected to be 5.2 million dollars of the total - balance from crops. Cash receipts in March were reduced because of the packers' strike, which curtailed operations in the larger plants, but the independents were operating all during the month - many on an increased scale. Data of estimated farm income on a state basis are available for only the first two months of 1948. An increase of approximately 130 million dollars is indicated in the cash farm income of the 12 northcentral states over the same two months in 1947, according to latest estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

* * * *

The money the farmer takes in for marketings is not all "velvet", by any means. Farm production costs have reached a new high during the past winter and are expected to continue high through 1948. The prices of a few farm products are now at pre-war levels. The index of prices of all commodities, except labor used in farm production, has nearly doubled since 1939. Since 1935-39, the farmer's out-of-pocket operating expenses have risen from 9 to 25 per cent each year, B.A.E. reports.

* * * *

Distribution of sugar by primary distributors (refiners, importers, beet sugar processors and mainland cane mills) was stepped up a little during the week ended April 3, but the weekly total was below that of the same week last year. The January 1-April 3 cumulative total was 1,331,846 short tons raw value - 154,000 tons below the same period in 1947.

* * * *

MILK PRODUCTION: March output smallest for the month since 1941. Production per cow a record for the month except for 1947; milk cow numbers smallest since 1939.

* * * *

POULTRY AND EGG PRODUCTION: Egg production in March 10 per cent above average, but chicks and young chickens on farms April 1 nearly 25 per cent below a year ago, 12 per cent below average.

* * * *

Domestic use of canned meats in 1947 is estimated by B.A.E. at 1,128,100,000 pounds - more than twice as large as in 1929. In carcass weight equivalent, this was approximately 8 pounds per person compared with about 5 in 1939.

Expanded export markets for dairy products are indicated by current purchase programs of the Dairy Branch, U.S.D.A. Notices to the dried milk industry April 7 announced plans to purchase the following: Spray process dried whole milk, 6,500,000 pounds, packed for export, announcement DA-53, offers by Wednesday, April 21 and subsequent Wednesdays, acceptance Thursdays; extra grade spray process nonfat dried milk solids, 19 million pounds, packed in export barrels or drums (this quantity in addition to earlier purchase program for 14,470,000 pounds, of which 9,328,390 have been purchased) under DA-52, offers by Monday, April 19 and subsequent Mondays, acceptance Wednesdays; extra grade roller process nonfat dried milk solids, 12,500,000 pounds, export packed, DA-57, offers by April 20 and subsequent Tuesdays, acceptance Thursdays; evaporated milk, 150,000 cases, export packed, DA-53, offers by April 13 and following Tuesdays, acceptance Thursdays (67,700 cases to be purchased from previous offer), delivery to be made as soon as possible for all products offered. Total evaporated purchases, to date, 1,118,000 cases. Above purchases all for foreign aid. If interested, contact Dairy Branch, PMA, Washington.

* * * * *

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson on April 10 announced that wheat, flour and coarse grain export allocations, established through May for current shipping year, totaled slightly more than 520 million bushels. Grain and flour needed to cover these have been purchased. Wheat and flour allocations alone for period total 433 million bushels, already purchased, leaving only 17 million bushels to reach a 450 million bushels, total wheat and flour goal. U.S.D.A. recently authorized I.E.F.C. to use a tentative figure of 466 million bushels of U.S. wheat and flour as basis for planning allocations for the last quarter of the marketing year ending June 30. This figure is now considered as a firm goal for wheat and flour exports for this shipping year.

* * * * *

A marketing order and agreement regulating the handling of Irish potatoes grown in the 7 surplus producing counties in eastern South Dakota, was announced April 9 by U.S.D.A. The order provides a method for regulating by grade and size the handling of potatoes produced in the area. It will be administered by the South Dakota Potato Committee consisting of 7 producer members. A 4-state marketing agreement and order now regulates the handling of potatoes produced in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota.

* * * * *

All exportable rice available until July 1, from the 1947 crop (less small quantities for unfilled allocation and contingency reserves) has been allocated to Cuba. Estimated available quantity about 1.3 million 100-pound bags milled rice. Applications for export licenses should be filed with Office of International Trade, Department of Commerce, Washington.

* * * * *

The number of cattle on feed for market on April 1 in the 11 cornbelt states is estimated as 25 per cent below the same date in 1947, or down about 450,000 head. The decrease in numbers on feed was general in all of the cornbelt states. Iowa and Nebraska, two of the leading cattle feeding states, showed sharp decreases of 28 and 32 per cent respectively. Illinois was down 17 per cent, Ohio 13, Indiana 15, Michigan 15, Minnesota 25, Missouri 30, South Dakota 20, Nebraska 32 and Kansas 30.

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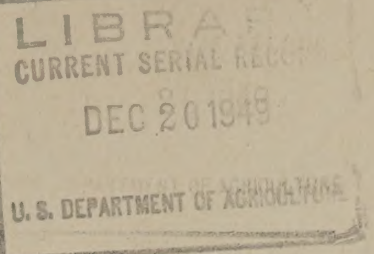
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Branch
623 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago 5, Illinois
April 21, 1948



FOOD MARKETING NEWSLETTER

Here's a preview of 1948 potential production of some basic U. S. farm crops which will move through handlers, processors and distributors to domestic consumers and export markets in the year ahead. It is based upon the latest 1948 production estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture:

WINTER WHEAT: Production of more than 860 million bushels is indicated. Combined with a normal spring wheat crop, this can add up to another crop of more than one billion bushels. The probable July 1, 1948 carryover will be around 150 million bushels (twice the 1947 carryover). Warning note! As of April 1, however, a larger acreage of winter wheat was in doubt as to final outcome than in any year since the spring of 1940. April 1 stocks of wheat on farms were the largest since the record year 1943.

RYE: Condition April 1 was 89 per cent of normal, 8 points above the 10 year average. Stocks on that date, held on farms, were more than 4 times larger than April 1 a year ago, but smaller than in any other year except 1943.

FRUIT CROPS: Peaches seriously damaged in several sections of south and east. Apples and sour cherries in average condition. More rain needed for satisfactory development of most California fruit and nut crops. Favorable in most other western fruit states. Outlook for 1948-1949 citrus crops is good except in California and Arizona. Pears are in good condition in Washington; should be satisfactory in California. Grape prospects satisfactory in California but water supplies may be inadequate in some areas - frost still a hazard. Apricot outlook in California is good.

POTATOES: April 1 condition of early Irish potatoes about same as last year in the 10 southern states and California. Winter crop now harvested in Texas, nearly so in Florida, with acreage reduced. Kern County, California harvest under way, acreage there 10,000 above 1947.

* * *

New Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration is Ralph S. Trigg, appointed April 16 to succeed Jesse B. Gilmer, who resigned to engage in private business. Trigg also succeeds Gilmer as President of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

* * *

The first ship to carry ECA grain (Economic Cooperation Administration, headed by Paul G. Hoffman), left from Galveston April 15, loaded with 8,800 tons of grain for France. 4 additional ECA cargoes were slated to sail within a few days.

* * *

With four dairy products purchase programs in operation, USDA last week bought: spray skim powder, 1,864,150 pounds at 14.50-14.75 cents per pound, for immediate delivery, and at 14.50 cents per pound for April 20-May 12 delivery; evaporated milk, 65,450 cases at 5.80-5.85 out of 70,450 cases offered. Still needed 152,250 cases. USDA also bought 414,250 pounds of spray skim powder today (April 20) for April delivery, at 14.50 cents. About 21,863,000 pounds of spray skim powder remain to be purchased.

* * *

A voluntary grain conservation agreement has been submitted to the baking industry by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson for formal acceptance. Main purpose - to limit "consignment selling" to the extent practicable in order to conserve wheat. If a substantial majority of wholesale bakers agree to comply, the program should become effective May 1 to extend through February 28, 1949. USDA will try to enlist the support of grocers, restaurants, bakery salesmen's unions and chain store bakers in this conservation measure.

* * *

21 Midwest cities are included in the list of 70 cities throughout the U.S. in which a survey will be made to learn what city folks are eating in 1948. The purpose is to obtain facts and figures needed for estimating the potential use by city families of food produced by farmers, and for developing programs to expand the consumption and improve the nutrition of consumers. The survey is being carried out as a research project under the Federal Research and Marketing Act.

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APRIL 1 COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND CHANGES DURING MARCH 1948

Cooler Commodities	Holdings	Net Change	Freezer Commodities	Holdings	Net Change
	April 1	during Mar.		April 1	during Mar.
	"000" lbs.	"000" lbs.		"000" lbs.	"000" lbs.
Apples.....	490,272	-304,944	Fruits	277,779	-39,040
Pears	21,200	-30,100	Vegetables ..	196,921	-29,698
Dried & ev.Fts.....	65,709	-1,247	Cream.....	5,654	-2,172
Can'd.ft.& Beg.....	1,942	-535	Cream'y.but..	4,165	-3,158
Nuts & Nutmeats....	91,668	9,590	Eggs.....	143,553	22,888
Fish*.....	12,800	-1,679	Poultry.....	206,075	-56,299
Cheese.....	102,824	-7,301	Beef.....	136,663	-17,213
Shell eggs.....	51,030	34,200	Pork.....	450,922	-30,482
Dried eggs.....	11,801	-15,809	Sausage.....	8,510	289
Beef.....	10,780	-513	Lamb & Mutton.	14,594	-2,377
Pork.....	212,209	-6,501	Veal.....	10,410	-2,962
Sausage.....	8,684	528	Edible Offal..	64,040	-6,726
Canned Meats.....	54,238	5,993	Lard & Prk.fat.	5,305	-192
Lard and Prk. fat..	127,320	-4,599	Fish*.....	67,200	-8,812
Other.....	319,543	-90,839	Other.....	33,569	-3,649
Total.....	1,582,020	-413,756	Total..	1,625,360	-179,603

* Estimated.

Total meat holdings declined only 60 million pounds from the March 1 near record holdings of 1,031,000,000 pounds inspite of reduced production resulting from the strike of production workers in 140 of the nation's largest packing plants. The cold storage holdings listed in the above table are based on reports submitted by the members of the warehousing industry to the Marketing Facilities Branch, USDA. Overall meat stock were 202 million pounds more than average and 223 million pounds in excess of meat storage stocks April 1, 1947.

Cuba's Prime Minister and officials of the Cuban Sugar Stabilization Institute signed the 1948 Cuban Raw Sugar Purchase Contract on April 7. It provides for the purchase of 1 million short tons of 1948 crop Cuban raw sugar by CCC to meet requirements of programs for the feeding of people in the occupied areas of Europe and the Orient, and other areas eligible for U.S. aid. The price was 4 cents per pound f.a.s. Cuban ports.

Approximately 1,285,000 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables were produced and shipped in the U.S. during 1947. Of this total, 964,078 carloads were moved by rail or boat and about 321,350 by truck. Although all shipments were subject to the regulations of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act and, only about 1/4 of 1 per cent of this tremendous marketing operation was made the subject of complaints under the federal regulations. This is a real tribute to the members of the fresh fruit and vegetable industry.

The nation's farm poultry flock included about 365,925,000 layers in March -- 2 per cent below last year, but 2 per cent above average. These hens produced 16.6 eggs per layer during March, compared with 16.4 in March 1947; and a previous average of 15.4 eggs. Total egg production for March -- 6,093,000,000 eggs. Chicks and young chickens of this year's hatching on farms April 1 are estimated at about 159 million -- smallest since 1941 and 24 per cent less than a year ago. Young chickens on farms April 1, however, do not necessarily indicate the size of the year's chicken crop. The decrease is in line with farmers' reported intentions on February 1 -- to buy 20 per cent fewer baby chicks this year.

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